

REMARKS

At the outset, the Examiner is thanked for the thorough review and consideration of the pending application. The Office Action dated May 23, 2005 has been received and its contents carefully reviewed.

Claims 3–5, 7–11, 13–15, and 17–22 are hereby amended; and claims 2 and 12 are canceled. Accordingly, claims 3–5, 7–11, 13–15, 17–23, and 27–37 are pending, with claims 27–37 withdrawn from consideration. Reexamination and reconsideration of the pending claims are respectfully requested.

In the Office Action, claims 2–5, 7–15, and 17–23 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 3,912,920 to Kubota (hereinafter “Kubota”).

Applicants hereby cancel claim 2 and amend claim 8 to be in independent form. Independent claim 8 is allowable in that it recites “a polarizer holder supporting said plurality of quartz substrate parts, wherein the polarizer holder includes an optically absorptive material.” Nothing in Kubota teaches or suggests at least this feature of the claimed invention. Further, Applicants respectfully submit that Kubota teaches away from this feature of the present invention. The specification of the present invention states “the light reflected by the quartz substrate part 15 is absorbed by polarizer holder 13, and the light transmitted by quartz substrate part 15 is irradiated over an alignment layer 50 ... polarizer holder 13 includes an optically absorptive material, and preferably includes a material whose optical absorptivity is almost 100%.” (See page 8, lines 15–19). In contrast, Kubota teaches that “the principal object is to provide a polarized light illumination device which can utilize more effectively light from the light source without absorbing light.” (Column 1, lines 17–20). Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that Kubota teaches away from use of an optically absorptive material, and that claim 8, and its dependent claims 3–5, 7, and 9–10, are allowable over Kubota.

Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection of independent claim 11 and request reconsideration. Claim 11, which recites “a polarizer holder supporting the quartz substrate part, wherein the polarizer holder includes an optically absorptive material,” is allowable for the same

or similar reason as that regarding claim 8 above. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that claim 11 is allowable over Kubota.

Applicants hereby cancel claim 12 and amend claim 22 to be in independent form. Claim 22, which recites "a polarizer holder supporting said plurality of quartz substrate parts, wherein the polarizer holder includes an optically absorptive material," is allowable for the same or similar reasons as that regarding claim 8 above. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that claim 22, and its dependent claims 13-15, 17-21, and 23, are allowable over Kubota.

Applicants believe the foregoing amendments place the application in condition for allowance and early, favorable action is respectfully solicited.

If for any reason the Examiner finds the application other than in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to call the undersigned attorney at (202) 496-7500 to discuss the steps necessary for placing the application in condition for allowance. All correspondence should continue to be sent to the below-listed address.

If these papers are not considered timely filed by the Patent and Trademark Office, then a petition is hereby made under 37 C.F.R. §1.136, and any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §1.136 for any necessary extension of time, or any other fees required to complete the filing of this response, may be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-0911. Please credit any overpayment to deposit Account No. 50-0911. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.

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Respectfully submitted,

By 

Rebecca Goldman Rudich

Registration No.: 41,786

MCKENNA LONG & ALDRIDGE LLP

1900 K Street, N.W.

Washington, DC 20006

(202) 496-7500

Attorney for Applicants